



Insight

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Commitment to excellence

The creation of the Defense Department, established in 1947, was to ensure the United States had the most powerful and integrated military in the world. Almost 50 years since the Department of Defense was created, Truman's vision of joint operability has come to fruition. Today as never before, all military branches operate as one with a single goal in mind - freedom.

Under dangerous and trying circumstances, our Soldiers continue to perform their job admirably in Afghanistan, Iraq and countries worldwide. We have the best fighting force in the world, and it's not because of our superior technology and weaponry, but it is the ideals, the commitment to each other and our way of life that make our fighting force the finest. It is these ideals that drive our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to accomplish the mission.

Our forces are performing tremendously in Iraq while assisting its people in transitioning to a new government. They continue to do what is right and just. The horrific events at Abu Ghraib are not a reflection of the

Army or its Soldiers. The people who committed these appalling acts will answer for their deeds according to the rules of democratic law.

Our commitment to this nation and its ideals began in 1777 at Valley Forge after being defeated in New York by the British Gen. William Howe.

Gen. George Washington begged his men to stay one month longer. He said, "You will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you probably never can do under any other circumstances." He added that the Army was engaged in the crisis which would decide our destiny. One-by-one, each man stepped forward to reenlist for the cause and for each other.

These same principles and ideals, which drove us to victory more than 220 years ago, remain the dynamic forces that inspire INSCOM Soldiers and civilians today. From the Battle of Bunker Hill to the defeat of Saddam Hussein, we are successful because of the will and determination of our people.

When compared to other nations of the world, the



DA photo

United States has a completely voluntarily military and a lower proportion of its people are needed to serve in the armed forces. Our combined active and reserve forces represent less than one percent of our population. This truly shows the resolve of every man and woman who choose to wear the uniform of their respective service.

I am honored to serve my country with every one of you. If not for you, and those who came before you, America would not be the symbol of independence and democracy that it is. Our commitment to these ideals continue to make America a beacon of freedom to the world.

Army celebrates 229th birthday



courtesy photo

(From left to right) Kimmons, Evan Triandafilou, INSCOM oldest worker, and Pvt. 2 Stacy Materio, the youngest in INSCOM, prepare to cut the Army's birthday cake June 14.

From Fort Belvoir, Va. to Camp Victory, Iraq, the Army paused June 14 to celebrate its 229th birthday. The focus of the celebration wasn't solely on those in attendance, but also those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"As military members, we know that freedom isn't free," said Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, in a birthday message to his Soldiers.

"As we speak, almost 800 INSCOM members are deployed in harm's way. They do this willingly for the sake of us, their children, families and

future generations.

"Over the past 229 years, America's sons and daughters have answered the nation's call," Kimmons said. "They have put aside the things that our society normally considers 'important' to preserve our democratic, pluralistic way of life and to preserve the enormous opportunities that make America unique – a shining light of hope to disadvantaged peoples throughout the world."

The men and women of the U.S. Army have many reasons for serving their country - many do it so that the rest of the nation can enjoy the little things in life - like birthday cake.

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Army unveils new uniforms

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - The Army will be fielding a new combat uniform designed by NCOs and tested by Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq since October.

On the Army's 229th birthday, senior leadership introduced the Army Combat Uniform during a Pentagon cake-cutting ceremony. Soldiers were on display, suited-up in the wrinkle-free uniform with a digitized camouflage pattern.

Three different versions of the ACU have been developed, and more than 10,000 uniforms have been produced and dragged through the sand in Iraq and at Army training centers. Even more are on American production lines to be issued by April 2005 to Soldiers in deploying units. Fielding to the total Army should be complete by December 2007, said officials from the Program Executive Office, known as PEO Soldier.

There were 20 changes made to the uniform, to include removing the color black and adapting the digital print from the Marine Corps uniform to meet the needs of the Army, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, the Clothing and Individual Equipment noncommissioned officer in charge.

Black is no longer useful on the uniform because it is not a color commonly found in nature. The drawback to black is that its color immediately catches the eye, he added.

"The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the environments that we operate in," Myhre said. "The current colors on the ACU are green-woodland, grey-urban environments and sand brown-desert. The pattern is not a 100-percent solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board."

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign of the uniform," said Col. John Norwood, the project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission."

Every change was made for a reason. The bottom pockets on the jacket were removed and placed on the shoulder sleeves so Soldiers can have access to them while wearing body armor.



courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre sports the new Army Combat Uniform, recently approved for wear.

The pockets were also tilted forward so that they are easily accessible. Buttons were replaced with zippers that open from the top and bottom to provide comfort while wearing armor.

Patches and tabs are affixed to the uniform with Velcro to give the wearer more flexibility and to save the Soldier money, Myhre said. Soldiers can take the name-tapes and patches off their uniforms before laundering, which will add to the lifecycle of the patches. Also the cost to get patches sewn on will be eliminated, he added.

The ACU will consist of a jacket, trousers, moisture wicking t-shirt and the brown combat boots. It will replace both versions of the BDU and the desert camouflage uniform. The black beret will be the normal headgear for the ACU, but there is a matching patrol cap to be worn at

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the commander's discretion.

At \$88 per uniform, about \$30 more than the BDU, Soldiers will eventually reap gains in money and time by not having to take uniforms to the cleaners or shine boots.

The life of the ACU began in January 2003 when PEO Soldier teamed with Myhre, Master Sgt. Alex Samoba and Staff Sgt. Matt Goodine - from the 1st Stryker Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.

The team looked at a number of uniforms and took the best part of each uniform and combined it into one. They built their first prototype and delivered 25 uniforms to Stryker squads at the National Training Center. After listening to their comments, the team went back to the lab and created prototype two.

Twenty-one uniforms were then delivered to Stryker Soldiers at the Joint Training and Readiness Center, Fort Polk, La.

"We watched them as they entered and cleared rooms, as they carried their rucksack and all of the things they had to be able to do in the uniform, and then we came up with prototype

three," Myhre said.

Two issues of the third version were given to the Stryker Soldiers deploying to Iraq. Three months ago, Myhre was among a team who visited Iraq to get more feedback from Soldiers.

"We would talk to Soldiers right after they had completed a mission while the benefits of the uniform were still fresh in their minds. We wanted to know how did the uniform help the mission."

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston is one of the ACU's biggest supporters. He said major command sergeants major had a chance to see the uniform and give advice toward the final version.

"We have not made a major change to our uniforms since the BDUs (battle dress uniforms) were introduced in the early 1980s," Preston said. "This new uniform performs well in multiple environments. Its new pockets and color designs are a result of feedback from Soldiers in combat. Every modification made on the uniform was designed with a specific purpose and not just for the sake of change."



courtesy photo

Bob Bills (left) and Jim Belanger, both of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, feast on deep-fried cicadas during a cook-out at the Nolan Bldg., Fort Belvoir, Va., June 4. Cicadas are harmless flying, plant-sucking insects that spend most of their lives underground. Every 17 years, they emerge for a few weeks, molt, mate and then die.



photo by Spc. Sarah Smith

More than 20 Soldiers from the 704th MI Brigade were rewarded for their hard work with a Blackhawk flight.

Incentive program takes flight

by Spc. Sarah Smith
704th MI Brigade

All of the hard work paid off for 24 lower enlisted Soldiers from the 704 Military Intelligence Brigade.

The exceptional troops took flight in Blackhawks from McGlachlin Parade Field at Fort Meade, Md., as part of a quarterly incentive and training experience May 26.

The VIP tour through Washington, D.C., was to reward Soldiers and "... let the soldiers in the strategic world get a small amount of tactical experience," said Capt. Anre'e Alexander, commander, B Company, 741st MI Battalion.

Aviators from the 12th Aviation Battalion out of Fort Belvoir, Va., flew the guest crew a mere 200 feet about ground, enabling optimal visual opportunity for the Soldiers.

"Flying so low, close over a bridge, you could see all the people that was an exciting part," said Spc. Roberto Vasquez, a signal analyst for the company. "You saw people pointing. Growing up when I saw helicopters or airplanes, I would point at them."

Vasquez was offered a spot on the helicopter ride because he won a Soldier of the month board.

"I got the tornado seat, the

wind is constantly in your face. Everybody was laughing at me too. I was making all these funny faces I guess," Vasquez said.

Before the flight, however, Soldiers practiced tactical business. Alexander explained that going on the "recon flight" would require them to go over troop leading procedures. Prior to the initial landing, Soldiers secured the airfield. During the flight, main supply routes were noted as part of a tactical exercise.

Although he had never ridden a helicopter, Vasquez is no stranger to tactical maneu-

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photo by Spc. Sarah Smith

Spc. Lukeus Bailey, crew chief, 12th Aviation briefs Soldiers from the 704th MI Brigade prior to take off.

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vers. While assigned to a military intelligence unit in Germany, he collected intelligence over hostile fire while on an airplane.

"I already know my tactical part of the job, to me this is an added incentive," Vasquez said.

Spc. Angela Williams, a program manager with the unit, saw the experience as a great

opportunity. "We're a strategic unit and we don't get to do these things. This is my first duty station, so I've never been to a tactical unit," she explained.

Williams attended Soldier of the month boards and participates in company and unit activities.

The morale flight, Williams said, serves as a motivation

tool for other Soldiers. "It gives [Soldiers] something to look forward to. It gets them out of the barracks and encourages them to participate in brigade events," she said.

"This experience was awesome," Williams said. "It's going to encourage me to do more things and participate in more functions. It's also a great memory to carry on."

Deployment update

The U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command Civilian Deployment Guide is now online. Because of the sensitive nature of the information, the guide can only be accessed from a .gov or .mil server.

For more information, go to: http://www.inscom.army.mil/milgov/civil_deployment/index.asp

NGIC gets involved with community

by Maj. William Anderson
National Ground Intelligence Center

What could make a Soldier nervous, only days after returning from a combat zone? How about being the guest speaker at a major event.

Sgt. James Christenson, an analyst at the National Ground Intelligence Center, had just returned from a deployment to Iraq, when he was asked to provide comments for the Armed Forces Day celebration May 15.

Jeri Allen, a Greene County supervisor, had attended NGIC's Community Leaders' Open House, during which the Commander, Col. Dalton Jones, said he wanted NGIC to reach out to its community neighbors. So when the Greene County Ruritans began

planning an Armed Forces Day celebration, she decided to take him up on the offer. She asked if the NGIC could provide a representative to speak at the celebration because "the words seem to come more easily to those in active service to our country." They also invited military personnel in the area to be part of the celebration and share in a picnic afterward.

Christenson began with a short history of the holiday. He shared stories of military heroes from the American Revolution through today, and summarized some of the great accomplishments that have taken place in Iraq. He shared personal stories of his experiences with the Iraqi locals, and their eagerness to move forward into a future of peace. He

closed by saying "There are those that say we should not support this war on terrorism, but to those people I say, 'It is your right as an American to express that opinion, but that right was bought with the blood of our forefathers who fought for it. We owe it to our Armed Forces to support them in their effort to free others.'"

At the conclusion of the event, Allen shared the heartfelt thank-you note presented to Christenson.

"Our group was fascinated by the photographs he brought, and we were very moved by his comments. Not only did he educate us about the positive strides in Iraq, he brought a tear to every eye with his commitment and dedication," Allen said.



photo by Julie Lucas

Sgt. James Christenson answers questions after participating in the Armed Forces Day ceremony May 15.

Story of the Badge of Military Merit

by Karen Kovach

INSCOM History Office

Congress officially authorized the raising of Continental troops and appointed George Washington the first commander June 14, 1775. The U.S. Army was born. The patriots who fought for America's independence from Great Britain began a legacy of service and sacrifice that has continued to this day.

Gen. George Washington established the first official recognition of exceptional service, the Badge of Military Merit, which became the forerunner of the Purple Heart. It was awarded for a combination of exceptional gallantry and sustained outstanding conduct.

The order read: "Whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all."

Captain Willey observed that "The Purple Heart Badge of Military Merit seems to have been one of the earliest instances of an established honor being created exclusively for the common Soldier. That this should have been done by the youngest democracy existing in this world is both fitting and significant."

Only three soldiers are known to have received the

"purple heart" during the Revolution: Daniel Bissell, Daniel Brown, and Elijah Churchill.

While it is not commonly known, Bissell was one of Washington's most active spies. The Windsor, Conn. native enlisted July 7, 1775 as a fifer in the 8th Connecticut Regiment. He was promoted to sergeant in 1777 and, according to the adjutant general's records, Bissell deserted from the Army in 1781 and the record seemingly ends.

That year was the pivotal year of the American Revolution. The Patriots had fought for six years and success still seemed as distant as in the dark days of Valley Forge. Benedict Arnold's treason reflected the morale of many patriots. The American cause was at its most critical stage and its leaders decided to stake the outcome on one great campaign: Yorktown. This was to be vastly more complicated than any so far undertaken. It required thorough liaison between all branches of the service. It also required thorough information regarding the plans of the enemy.

In August 1781, a few months before Yorktown, Bissell was directed by Washington to go into New York City and Philadelphia to determine British strength and intentions. When he first entered New York, to escape being forced into the British fleet, he enlisted in Benedict Arnold's corps. He



file photo

became quartermaster and served all of his time in camp and in the hospitals so that he never fought against his countrymen while in British service. All this time he kept a written memorandum of troop strength and locations until he knew the exact situation of British forces and their condition. The enemy became suspicious, and an order was issued that if any soldier was found with written information on him, he would be treated as a spy. Bissell was forced to destroy his precious memorandums, and remember the information.

Two days after his escape from British service, Bissell was back in Washington's headquarters in Newburgh, dictating a document highly important to the American Army.

Some historians call Bissell the most valuable spy in Washington's service next to Nathan Hale.